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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

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DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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April 29, 2005

TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – B & I GROUP
HOMES, INC., ALVARADO AND SAN FRANCISCO SITES**

We have completed a review of the Alvarado and San Francisco Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by B & I Group Homes, Inc. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Alvarado and San Francisco Group Homes are six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Alvarado Group Home was providing services for one Los Angeles County DCFS child and four Los Angeles County Probation children. San Francisco Group Home was providing services for three Los Angeles County DCFS children and one Los Angeles County Probation child.

Alvarado and San Francisco Group Homes are located in the First District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review was to determine whether the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues, and included an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, facility inspections, and interviews with two children placed in each Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Both Group Homes need to make minimal repairs; provide emancipation programs for all age appropriate residents; and ensure that residents meet DCFS clothing standards for quantity.

Attached are detailed reports of the review findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide a corrective action plan to the Children Services Group Home Ombudsman within 20 business days from the date of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:dl

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer
Irene Kiurwai, Executive Director, B & I Group Homes, Inc.
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**B & I Group Homes, Inc.
Alvarado Site
197 East Alvarado Street
Pomona, California 91767
Phone: (909) 622-1133
License No.: 197801988
Rate Classification Level: 11**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Alvarado Group Home is a large facility located in a residential neighborhood in Pomona. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. However, the rear porch has a support post that has dry rot. In the side yard, three concrete pillar anchors are protruding above ground level creating a safety hazard.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible and appropriately dated.

Recommendations

- 1. B & I Group Homes, Inc. management:**
 - a. Replace the decayed porch support post.**
 - b. Remove the exposed concrete pillar anchors.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. The residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There was documentation to support the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly report for one resident is current, comprehensive, and appropriately focused on the goals of the NSP. The other resident has not been in the Group Home long enough to require a quarterly report.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, and emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Residents are attending school. Their records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed.

One age appropriate resident has not been offered the opportunity to participate in an emancipation program. The other resident is not old enough to require these services. Neither resident requires vocational services at this time.

Neither resident is employed.

Recommendation

2. B & I Group Homes, Inc. provide all age appropriate residents the opportunity to participate in emancipation programs.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. The residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are no residents receiving psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented in the medication logs.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their probation officers, social workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to residents is of good quality. However, one resident is in need of sweaters/sweatshirts.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum base allowance, which they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are provided with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

- 3. B & I Group Homes, Inc. management ensure that all residents are provided with sufficient clothing to meet DCFS standards for quantity.**

**B & I Group Homes, Inc.
San Francisco Street Site
410 San Francisco Street
Pomona, California 91767
Phone: (909) 622-1133
License No.: 197803511
Rate Classification Level: 11**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

San Francisco Group Home is a large facility located in a residential neighborhood in Pomona. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. However, a section of cement slab is missing from the driveway at the rear of the house. The cement area around the missing section is uneven presenting a safety hazard.

The interior décor of the Group Home provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, two areas in the kitchen are in need of improvement.

The right front burner of the kitchen stove is not lighting and the kitchen sink is severely pitted.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. However, the portable basketball goal is broken. The weight plates of the weightlifting equipment need to be secured when not in use. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR. Books and resource materials, including two computers with a variety of programs, are also available.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendations

1. B & I Group Homes, Inc. management:

- a. Replace the missing section of cement slab and even the cemented area.**

- b. Repair the burner on the kitchen stove.**
- c. Repair/replace the kitchen sink.**
- d. Repair/replace the portable basketball goal.**
- e. Secure the weight plates when the equipment is not in use.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. The residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There was documentation to support the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly report for one resident is current, comprehensive, and appropriately focused on the goals of the NSP. The other resident has not been in the Group Home long enough to require a quarterly report.

The residents are provided with emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Residents are attending school. Their records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports for the residents. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed.

Neither resident has been offered the opportunity to participate in an emancipation program. The residents are not age appropriate for vocational services.

Neither resident is employed.

Recommendation

- 2. B & I Group Homes, Inc. management provide all age appropriate residents the opportunity to participate in emancipation programs.**

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. The residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

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Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their probation officers, social workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

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Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to residents is of good quality. However, one resident is in need of additional outfits, shoes, a sweater/sweatshirt, a pair of slippers, and a bathrobe.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum base allowance, which they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are provided with an opportunity to maintain photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

- 3. B & I Group Homes, Inc. management ensure that all residents are provided with sufficient clothing to meet DCFS standards for quantity.**